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SOURCE Volksstimme.

VILLAGE INHABITANTS PROTEST ARREST OF FARMER-SABOTEUR

In Weigmannsdorf, Kreis Brand-Erbisdorf, 295 inhabitants signed a petition for the release of the large farm owner Winkler, who was sentenced for committing economic crimes.

How was it possible that workers and working peasants, among them even members of our party [Socialist Unity Party], placed their names on this petition? The chief reason for the occurrence of such an incident was that the party organization's enlightenment work was completely unsatisfactory and that the responsible comrades, who work in the mass organizations and in the National Front, received inadequate guidance. Also to blame is the SED management in Kreis Brand-Erbisdorf, which did not provide the necessary aid and support to the local party organization at Weigmannsdorf. Although the Kreis management sent its instructors to Weigmannsdorf, these instructors analyzed the weaknesses and defects only superficially and did not assist in eliminating them.

Since the training work performed within the local party organization in Weigmannsdorf was extremely poor, it is not surprising that our Weigmannsdorf comrades could not do a thorough job of instructing the residents of Weigmannsdorf on the dangerous work of the class enemy.

If the 295 residents had known and fully understood what a criminal element Winkler is, and how his actions reduce their own living standards, they doubtless would not have signed the petition. Winkler's acts of sabotage included deliberately neglecting to harvest 10 hectares of grain in the past year, illegally slaughtering five animals for his own profit, and nonfulfillment of his delivery quotas for meat, eggs, rape seed, potatoes, and grain.

The policy of the party and government toward owners of large farms was clearly expressed by Comrade Walter Ulbricht at the Congress of Working Peasants in Leipzig, when he said: "The owners of large farms must fulfill their legal obligations to the fullest extent; that is, they must fulfill their delivery quotas, pay their taxes punctually, etc. They must observe the laws to the letter. We do not demand political declarations from them, but we do require strict adherence to the legal obligations. Whoever does not fulfill these obligations will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the laws!"

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